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HOUSE BILL 1921

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State of Washington                      60th Legislature                      2007 Regular Session

By Representatives Springer, Pettigrew, Santos, Walsh, Appleton, McDonald, Kenney, Darneille, Hasegawa and Ormsby

Read first time 01/31/2007. Referred to Committee on Housing.

1            AN ACT Relating to providing assistance to homeless individuals and  
2 families; adding new sections to chapter 43.185C RCW; and making  
3 appropriations.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 43.185C  
6 RCW to read as follows:

7            (1) The transitional housing operating and rent program is created  
8 in the department to assist homeless individuals and families secure  
9 and retain safe, decent, and affordable housing. The department shall  
10 provide grants to eligible organizations, as described in RCW  
11 43.185.060, to provide assistance to program participants. The  
12 eligible organizations must use grant moneys for:

13            (a) Rental assistance, which includes security or utility deposits,  
14 first and last month's rent assistance, and eligible moving expenses to  
15 be determined by the department;

16            (b) Case management services designed to assist program  
17 participants to secure and retain immediate housing and to transition  
18 into permanent housing and greater levels of self-sufficiency;

1 (c) Operating expenses of transitional housing facilities that  
2 serve homeless families with children; and

3 (d) Administrative costs of the eligible organization, which must  
4 not exceed limits prescribed by the department.

5 (2) Eligible to receive assistance through the transitional housing  
6 operating and rent program are:

7 (a) Families with children who are homeless or who are at risk of  
8 becoming homeless and who have household incomes at or below fifty  
9 percent of the median household income for their county; and

10 (b) Individuals or families without children who are homeless or at  
11 risk of becoming homeless and who have household incomes at or below  
12 thirty percent of the median household income for their county.

13 (3) All program participants must be willing to create and actively  
14 participate in a housing stability plan for achieving permanent housing  
15 and greater levels of self-sufficiency.

16 (4) Data on all program participants must be entered into and  
17 tracked through the Washington homeless client management information  
18 system as described in RCW 43.185C.180.

19 (5) The department encourages eligible organizations funded through  
20 the program to have a quality management system and to submit an  
21 application to the Washington state quality award program to evaluate  
22 that system.

23 (6) The department may develop rules, requirements, procedures, and  
24 guidelines as necessary to implement and operate the transitional  
25 housing operating and rent program.

26 (7) The department shall produce an annual transitional housing  
27 operating and rent program report that must be included in the  
28 department's homeless housing strategic plan as described in  
29 43.185C.040. The report must include performance measures to be  
30 determined by the department that address, at a minimum, the following  
31 issue areas:

32 (a) The success of the program in helping program participants  
33 transition into permanent housing and increase their levels of self-  
34 sufficiency;

35 (b) The financial performance of the program related to efficient  
36 program administration by the department and program operation by  
37 selected eligible organizations, including an analysis of the costs per  
38 program participant served;

1 (c) The quality, completeness, and timeliness of the information on  
2 program participants provided to the Washington homeless client  
3 management information system database; and

4 (d) The satisfaction of program participants in the assistance  
5 provided through the program.

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 43.185C  
7 RCW to read as follows:

8 The transitional housing operating and rent account is created in  
9 the custody of the state treasurer. All receipts from sources directed  
10 to the transitional housing operating and rent program must be  
11 deposited into the account. Expenditures from the account may be used  
12 solely for the purpose of the transitional housing operating and rent  
13 program as described in section 1 of this act. Only the director of  
14 the department or the director's designee may authorize expenditures  
15 from the account. The account is subject to allotment procedures under  
16 chapter 43.88 RCW, but an appropriation is not required for  
17 expenditures.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) The sum of seven million five hundred  
19 thousand dollars, or as much thereof as may be necessary, is  
20 appropriated for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2008, from the general  
21 fund to the transitional housing operating and rent account created in  
22 section 2 of this act for the purpose of implementing and operating the  
23 transitional housing operating and rent program. The first two million  
24 five hundred dollars of the appropriation shall be distributed to  
25 eligible organizations that will utilize available funds, less  
26 appropriate administrative costs of the department of community, trade,  
27 and economic development, to be used for the purposes described in  
28 section 1(1) (a) through (d) of this act solely to serve families with  
29 children under the age of eighteen. All remaining appropriated moneys,  
30 less appropriate administrative costs of the department of community,  
31 trade, and economic development, shall be used solely for the purposes  
32 described in section 1(1) (a), (b), and (d) of this act to serve those  
33 eligible under section 1(2) of this act.

34 (2) The sum of seven million five hundred thousand dollars, or as  
35 much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for the fiscal year  
36 ending June 30, 2009, from the general fund to the transitional housing

1 operating and rent account created in section 2 of this act for the  
2 purpose of implementing and operating the transitional housing  
3 operating and rent program. The first two million five hundred dollars  
4 of the appropriation shall be distributed to eligible organizations  
5 that will utilize available funds, less appropriate administrative  
6 costs of the department of community, trade, and economic development,  
7 to be used for the purposes described in section 1(1) (a) through (d)  
8 of this act solely to serve families with children under the age of  
9 eighteen. All remaining appropriated moneys, less appropriate  
10 administrative costs of the department of community, trade, and  
11 economic development, shall be used solely for the purposes described  
12 in section 1(1) (a), (b), and (d) of this act to serve those eligible  
13 under section 1(2) of this act.

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